

CLAIMS

1. A method for automatically discovering web services comprising querying a known UDDI server address containing a list of web services, identifying from said list suitable web services, and automatically downloading at least one machine readable description of a web service.

2. A method according to claim 1, said method being carried out periodically by a CE device, without user interaction.

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3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said querying comprises transmitting a query in a predefined format, and said query contains a specific request, limiting the type of web service identified.

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4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said query contains a request for TV Anytime services, said query further including an element specifying a set of taxonomies to which said service must conform.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said set of taxonomies is at least one of authority name, broadcast service, genre, content format, service usage rights, table types and queryable fields.

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6. A method according to any preceding claim, and further comprising responding to said querying with a response comprising the list of suitable web services.

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7. A method according to claim 6, and further comprising selecting a web service from said list and communicating the selected web service to said UDDI server address.

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8. Apparatus for automatically discovering web services comprising communicating means for querying a known UDDI server address containing a

list of web services and identifying from said list suitable web services, said communicating means arranged to automatically download at least one machine readable description of a web service.

5 9. Apparatus according to claim 8, said apparatus being a CE device, and said communicating means periodically carrying said querying without user interaction.

10 10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, wherein said communicating means queries said UDDI server address by transmitting a query in a predefined format and said communicating means is arranged to include in said query a specific request, limiting the type of web service identified.

15 11. Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said query contains a request for TV Anytime services, said query further including an element specifying a set of taxonomies to which said service must conform.

20 12. Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said set of taxonomies is at least one of authority name, broadcast service, genre, content format, service usage rights, table types and queryable fields.

25 13. Apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 12, and further comprising a user interface for displaying information and for receiving user instructions.

 14. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said user interface is arranged to display the list of suitable web services and to receive a user selection of one or more of the displayed services.

30 15. A method for automatically discovering TV Anytime web services comprising querying a known server address containing a list of web services, identifying from said list suitable web services, and automatically downloading

at least one machine readable description of a web service, said querying comprises transmitting a query in a predefined format, said query further including an element specifying a set of taxonomies to which said service must conform.

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16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said set of taxonomies is at least one of authority name, broadcast service, genre, content format, service usage rights, table types and queryable fields.

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17. Apparatus for automatically discovering TV Anytime web services comprising communicating means for querying a known server address containing a list of web services and identifying from said list suitable web services, said communicating means arranged to automatically download at least one machine readable description of a web service, said communicating means queries said server address by transmitting a query in a predefined format, said query further including an element specifying a set of taxonomies to which said service must conform.

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18. Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said set of taxonomies is at least one of authority name, broadcast service, genre, content format, service usage rights, table types and queryable fields.

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